

TOWN OF GILA BEND

Minutes of the September 14, 2010 regular Council Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. *The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henry at 6:00pm*
- B. *Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Henry*
- C. *Invocation given by Vice Mayor Hull*

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry
Vice-Mayor Fred Hull
Council Member Fernando Fernandez
Council Member Armida Gonzalez

Council Member Chuck Turner
Council Member James "Bud" Turner
Council Member Donny Young

Town of Gila Bend Staff present: Town Manager Buss, Town Attorney McClure, Town Clerk Turner, Finance Director Young, Social Services Director Dempsey, Airport Manager Drury, Parks & Recreation Interim Director Dishman, Records Management Clerk, Counter Services Smith

Mayor Henry requested to speak prior to beginning Council business. Mayor Henry presented Councilmember C. Turner with a plaque for his 16 years of service to the community of Gila Bend. Councilmember C. Turner responded by commenting that it has been a wonderful 16 years.

III. CONSENT AGENDA (all items subject to approval by a single motion; any Council Member may require any of these items to be voted on separately)

- A. Approval of August 31, 2010 Special Council meeting minutes: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on the approval of the August, 2010 Special Council meeting minutes. ***Discussion and Action (WHITE) Councilmember J. Turner moved to approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember Young. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.***

IV. BUSINESS - Discussion and possible action on the following items:

- A. RPTA Agreement Amendment: The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Gila Bend shall discuss and possibly take action to approve an amendment to the agreement with RPTA for the reimbursement of ADA para transit services. ***Discussion and Action (BLUE) Vice Mayor Hull moved to approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember Gonzalez. Social Services Director Dempsey spoke about how the program has been extremely nice, going out of their way to take people to their homes when they are not required to do so. Discussion on ADA certification, cost a little more and service is exemplary. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.***
- B. Special Event Permit: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to approve submittal of a special event permit to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control to allow for the sale of alcohol (beer only) at the Annual Santa Show and Shine Car Show October 16, 2010. ***Discussion and Action (PINK) Councilmember C. Turner moved to approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember J. Turner. Vice Mayor Hull commented that he does not think that the Town should be selling alcohol, that there are other ways to raise money, or funds can be taken from the budget. Councilmember Gonzalez voiced her concerns about children attending event being given the wrong message about drinking and alcohol. Parks & Recreation Interim Director Dishman spoke about the distance between children's activities and the area set aside for beer garden and that Golden Eagle Distributors will also bring pamphlets to hand-out stating 21 means 21. Discussion on security provided by the international tactical team, CAP van available to drive attendees home if and when needed, beer sales attract more attendees and this is***

to buy Christmas gifts for disadvantaged Gila Bend youths. Motion passed; 6-1, with Vice Mayor Hull voting nay.

- C. Weather Station at Gila Bend Airport: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to approve the location of a United States Government sponsored weather station at the Gila Bend Municipal Airport. **Discussion and Action (GREEN) Vice Mayor Hull moved to approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. Airport Manager Drury noted that he was contacted by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who found a spot for weather testing at the airport, they pay all costs and Town just provides space, and the benefit of providing current and accurate weather to all pilots flying in to Gila Bend. Discussion on General Plan interference not an issue, location to be at east end of airport, and the accessibility of NOAA website and information. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0**
- D. Civic Center Site: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on selecting a site or sites for a future civic center and ancillary support facilities. **Discussion and Action Town Manager Buss gave a short PowerPoint Presentation on a new Gila Bend Civic Center. He noted that this was discussed last year but not pursued, current Town Hall is old and has numerous issues including leaks, termites, lack of adequate space and we are not energy efficient with an average monthly utility bill of \$5,000.⁰⁰ per month. Town Manager Buss emphasized that this is a draft and is to be looked at as a starting point for site selection and that even though he used the current location of the CAP building/Community Center Park as the new site for the Civic Center, it is just an example and draft. Discussion on the Civic Center to be a place of civic pride, centralize many of the services, and the current Town Hall sits on a prime piece of commercial real estate that could be utilized more efficiently and beneficially for the residents. Discussion on this is site selection only, need input and ideas from residents, Council, and staff, other site possibilities, and that site selection is necessary to begin process. Town Manager Buss noted the importance of creating a “sense of place” and keeping the small town feel, approval would allow process to begin, and that this is a fairly long process. Comments from the public included resident Art Dishman asking about utilizing vacant lots to avoid demolition, resident Clyde Kreeger commented that he recently measured that area and it is only 150’ wide which is not big enough and resident Elizabeth McClure asking if this is just a suggestion. Councilmember Young moved to approve with this site and a secondary site considered. Motion seconded by Councilmember J. Turner. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.**
- E. Civic Center Logistics: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on directing staff to begin researching administrative, financial, and operational logistics for a future civic center, and to bring recommendations back to the Council for discussion and action no later than November 9, 2010. **Discussion and Action Councilmember J. Turner moved to approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. Vice Mayor Hull commented that there are 20-years worth of unfinished projects that should be completed prior to taking this on. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0**
- F. Annual Merit Review: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action relative to the Town Manager’s annual merit review. **Discussion and Action Mayor Henry noted that this Item is moved to the end of the Agenda, after the Executive Session.**
- G. Area Agency on Aging IGA: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to approve an IGA with Area Agency on Aging for Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 for Senior Center Services. **Discussion and Action. Social Services Director Dempsey noted that this is usually done at the same time as the CAP agreement but it did not happen this year. Councilmember J. Turner made a motion to approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember Young. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.**
- H. Airport Shade Hangers: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to approve contract with SD Crane Builders for the construction of Shade Hangers at the Gila Bend Municipal Airport. **Discussion and Action Councilmember J. Turner motioned to**

approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. Town Manager Buss noted that the Council previously approved bid award to SD Crane Builders and this is for the approval of the contract and a Notice to Proceed will be provided to the contractor after approval. Airport Manager Drury noted that project is on track, Gila Bend is an "A"-rated airport and this is the first step to reconstruction of runway. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0

V. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS**

(This is the time Council Member's may present a brief summary on current events. The Council may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take any legal action on the information presented)

Councilmember Fernandez: No report

Councilmember Gonzalez: No report

Vice Mayor Hull: Reported that approximately 84 people attended the Maricopa Workforce Connections Information Session on career opportunities offered by Solana and that it was a good turn-out of residents.

Councilmember Young: Reported that his son, A. J. Young, did very well in the try-outs in North Carolina and spoke about the excellent facilities they have.

Councilmember J. Turner: No report

Councilmember C. Turner: Reported on his trip to the Chile Festival in Hatch, NM. He had hoped to bring some ideas back for Gila Bend's annual Shrimp Festival but found that our event is a much better event, though he did enjoy the different chili's.

Mayor Henry asked for reports from:

Finance Director Young: Complimented Summer Villegas and Joanne Carpenter for the good work being accomplished and that a report should be ready for the first Council Meeting in October. She reported the receipt of funds from Taxpayers A and C and thanked Town Manager Buss for his hard work on getting this accomplished. Reported on the New Market Tax Credit Training she and Community Planner Fitzer attended, that it is a great economic tool and that Gila Bend does qualify in the Low-Income status.

Parks & Recreation Interim Director Dishman: Reported that the Punt, Pass & Kick event on September 10th was successful with four kids going on to the Sectional Tournament. Reported that on Saturday, September 18th there will be a Karate Demonstration in preparation for the upcoming classes and that he has been working on the 2nd Annual Santa Show & Shine and Fright Night.

Airport Manager Drury: Thanked everyone, especially Staff, for all of the assistance and help over the past months, thanked Drew (P&R Interim Director Dishman) for pulling weeds at the airport, Beverly (Town Clerk Turner) for her assistance and that grant funding would not have happened without the teamwork involved.

Social Services Director Dempsey: Reported that she is excited about Solana and the turn-out at this evenings informational session and she is also excited about the First Things First Program.

Mayor Henry: Commended Staff for the accomplishments, noted that things are looking great and commented on what good things can be done by working together.

VI. **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager Buss: Reported that while having lunch at Little Italy the other day, a resident complimented the work being done by Parks & Recreation Interim Director Dishman, he has been working on an agreement with First Things First and Care First. He noted that Mr. Santiago from the program is here and that on September 30th he, Community Planner Fitzer, Finance Director Young and Social Services Director Dempsey will be attending a meeting with the First Things First program. He commented that it was nice to hear that there was good attendance at the Workforce Connections session. He reported on the MAG and small towns meeting he attended in regards to the Library District of Maricopa County, the bill being pushed by larger metro areas (more money), bill violates Library District concept, and if passed libraries in Litchfield Park and Queen Creek will close. Reported on the meeting regarding the Gila Bend Jail Facility used as a multi-jurisdictional facility. On Wednesday, September 15th, he and Eric will be presenting Gila Bend to GPEC for the first time.

VII. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC** (The procedures to follow if you address the Council are: Council

requests that you express your ideas in three minutes or less and refrain from any personal attacks or derogatory statements about any individual . The Mayor will limit discussion whenever he deems such an action appropriate to the proper conduct of the meeting. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the Council may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Council, may ask Staff to review a matter, or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Council shall not discuss or take legal action on any matters during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.)

Mr. Santiago with the First Things First program spoke about the program, that it is funded through the tobacco tax, program goal is to have healthy kids ready for school, 0 – 5 years are very important learning years that should be used advantageously, for all kids, and the program includes pre-natal and family services. He stated that his goal as the Region Coordinator is to create family resource centers throughout the southwest region. He noted that Gila Bend is main target for these services.

Resident Art Dishman thanked Vice Mayor Hull and Fire Chief Birchfield for their assistance during his medical problem. He thanked Town Manager Buss for getting the grants for improvements and Town Clerk Turner for her assistance. He thanked the Council for hiring professional people and commented that he likes the direction that the Town is taking and this was the reason he first moved to Gila Bend, He thanked Airport Manager Drury for all the work he has done on the airport and Community Planner Fitzer for addressing a problem immediately even though it was not his department. He asked what does Gila Bend want to be when it grows up and what is the first impression that we want people to have of Gila Bend. He again thanked the Council and Staff for their hard work and for moving the Town of Gila Bend in a positive direction.

Resident Elizabeth McClure commented that she attended the Maricopa Workforce Connections Informational Session and was disappointed that there were no Councilmembers or Town Staff present. She stated that Solana went out of its way to do this and they kept their word and she feels that they should be given more appreciation.

Resident Clyde Kreeger stated that this year the Shrimp Fest will be “green” as APS will be powering the festival with their solar unit.

- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Town Council may go into executive session for purpose of obtaining legal advice for any of the above agenda items pursuant to A.R.S.38-431.03(A)(3) and A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) personnel matters; related to the Town Manager's annual review. **Councilmember C. Turner moved to go into Executive Session. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Hull. Time: 7:17pm**

Regular meeting reconvened at 8:27 pm

Item IV. F. was taken up. Annual Merit Review: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action relative to the Town Manager's annual merit review. Council Member C Turner moved to increase the Managers pay by 10%, retain the same terms and conditions as the current contract and add an additional year. Seconded by Council Member Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member C Turner moved to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously. Time 8:29 pm.

Ron Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held September 14, 2010, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk